

Message Text

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DEPT PLS PASS ALSO TO NE JOHNSON, IA, NOAA

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: WMO

SUBJ: PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WMO QUADRENNIAL BUDGET

1. MISSION HAS LEARNED THAT SYG DAVIES OF WMO HAS INVITED WESTERN EUROPEAN METEOROLOGICAL DIRECTORS WHO WILL HOLD INFORMAL TALKS IN PALMA DE MAJORCA APR 20-22, TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS ON WMO BUDGET FOR 8TH FINANCIAL PERIOD, 1980-84. DAVIES HAS SAID HE WOULD WELCOME THEIR IDEAS ON NEW OR ADJUSTED PROGRAMS AS WELL AS SOME INDICATION OF AMOUNT OF OVERALL BUDGET THEY WOULD THINK REQUIRED. D/SYG SCHNEIDER WILL REPRESENT DAVIES, AND WILL CARRY BACK TO GENEVA INFORMAL VIEWS OF DIRECTORS. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT U.S. DIRECTOR NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE MAJORCA MEETINGS.

2. DEPT MAY RECALL THAT SYG WMO IS EXPECTED TO PRESENT HIS BUDGET PROPOSALS TO WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 30TH SESSION IN JUNE 1978 FOR THEIR COMMENT. HE MAY THEN ALTER HIS BUDGET ON BASIS OF THESE COMMENTS, OR SIMPLY FORWARD THEM ALONG WITH HIS BUDGET DOCUMENT TO THE 8TH CONGRESS, WHICH MEETS IN APRIL 1979.

3. THUS, MAJORCA TALKS COULD PROVIDE GOOD OCCASION FOR
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INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH MOST IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF SMO AND WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL BACKGROUND FOR U.S. MEMBER TO 29TH SESSION WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN JUNE 1977 IN MAKING HIS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM 9.2: PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL PERIOD. AS NOTED IN PARA 1, SYG WMO IS REQUIRED TO PRESENT HIS BUDGET TO THE WMO CONGRESS

AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CAN ONLY COMMENT ON HIS PROPOSALS. THUS, A MAJOR EFFECT ON WHAT THE SYG WILL PUT INTO HIS BUDGET CAN BEST BE MADE BEFORE HE MUST PUT HIS PROPOSALS INTO CONCRETE FORM. SYG WMO HAS IN PAST COMMENTED ON DIFFICULTY HE HAS IN FRAMING A 4-YEAR BUDGET, THE END OF WHICH PERIOD IS SEVEN YEARS IN ADVANCE. THE DATE WHEN HE MUST BEGIN THE BUDGET PREPARATION. THEREFORE, BROAD GUIDANCE FROM THE PRINCIPAL MEMBERS IS ESSENTIAL IN JUNE 1977 IF BUDGET IS TO REFLECT IN GENERAL TERMS THEIR VIEWS.

4. SINCE GEENVA GROUP WILL BE RESTRICTING ITS PROGRAM AND BUDGET REVIEWS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE TO THE FOUR MAJOR SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, THE INFORMAL TALKS AT MAJORCA, AND DISCUSSIONS AT THE 29TH SESSION OF THE WMO EXCOM WOULD PROVIDE VALUABLE ALTERNATIVE.

5. IN MAKING THESE COMMENTS TO MISSION OFFICER, D/SYG POINTED TO DIFFICULTY FACING ORGANIZATION IN HOLDING REGIONAL MEETINGS IN SEVERAL OF ITS REGIONS, PARTICULARLY AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA. IN AFRICA, VIRTUALLY ONLY TWO COUNTRIES ARE NOW ACCEPTABLE AS HOSTS FOR A WMO REGIONAL MEETING. THESE NOW FIND IT TOO EXPENSIVE TO BEAR THE OVER-GENEVA COSTS. D/SYG HAS BEEN TOLD THAT PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AFRICA (ABAYOMI, NIGERIA) WILL MAKE PLEA AT 29TH EXCOM FOR FUNDS TO HELP DEFRAY SOME OF THESE EXTRA COSTS, POINTING OUT THAT REGIONAL MEETINGS HELD AT WMO HEADQUARTERS TO NOT PERMIT FULL PARTICIPATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE REGION.

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THE ADDED COSTS ARE LIKELY TO BE SMALL, BUT PRINCIPLE MAY BE IMPORTANT ONE FOR FUTURE. ALSO, QUESTION OF MORE SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR WORK OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS WILL LIKELY BE RAISED AT 29TH EXCOM. SECRETARIAT IS CONSIDERING DESIRABILITY OF HAVING EACH REGIONAL DIRECTOR CONTINUE TO OPERATE FROM WMO HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA BUT ADDING A SMALL AUXILIARY OFFICE AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS. THIS WOULD ENABLE THE ORGANIZATION TO HAVE MORE FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH ITS MEMBERS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL AND TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE WORK OF OTHER AGENCIES WHICH IMPACT ON WMO PROGRAMS. THEY CITE THE WMO/ESCAP TYPHOON SECRETARIAT IN BANGKOK AS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE VALUE OF SUCH ARRANGMENTS.

6. MISSION PREPARED TO SOLICIT INFORMAL IDEAS OF LEADING SECRETARIAT OFFICERS ON BUDGET FOR NEXT FINANCIAL PERIOD IF DEPARTMENT FEELS THESE WOULD BE USEFUL AT THIS STAGE. SORENSON

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